

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated February 28, 2006. At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-27 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, the Examiner objected claims 6 and 13. Further, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-5, and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,632,506 to Shellabarger (hereinafter "Shellabarger"). Claims 1-2, 4, 6-8, 10-13, 15-17, 20, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,667,241 issued to Bunker et al. (hereinafter "Bunker"). Claims 3, 18, 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bunker in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,460,877 issued to Tanabe et al (hereinafter "Tanabe"). At the same time, the Examiner allowed claims 22-24 and indicated that claims 14, 19, 21, and 27 contained allowable subject matter.

By this paper, claims 14 and 27 have been canceled and claims 1, 6, 11, 13, 17, and 25 have been amended. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

I. Objection to Claims 6 and 13

As a result of this paper, claims 6 and 13 have been amended pursuant to the Examiner's instructions. Withdrawal of this claim objection is respectfully requested.

II. Objections Based Upon the Cited References

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-5, and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by to Shellabarger. The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4, 6-8, 10-13, 15-17, 20, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Bunker. Claims 3, 18, 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bunker in view of Tanabe. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As a result of this paper, Applicants have amended the independent claims to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 27. Accordingly, by this amendment all of the claims are distinguishable over the cited references. Specifically, the pending claims now recite that the "inflator comprises a housing and the squib, wherein the throat is sealed by wrapping the throat around an inflator housing." As this feature is not taught by the cited references, these claims are

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allowable over the cited references. As such, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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